



Annual Report for the Board Chair

AGM Wednesday 1st July 2020

Welcome to the 52nd AGM for the Personal Advocacy and Safeguarding Adults Trust.

It has been a busy and challenging year for the trust, Covid 19, lockdown for Advocates and members, staff changes and we are once more down to one National Director. This has been due to an inability to secure more sustainable funding for the Safeguarding work.

The government, Police and other agencies can see the value in the work and the Ministries make referrals and fund one off safeguarding but there's no sustainable government funding path identified as yet

We have received 77 enquiries and referrals for Safeguarding in the last 12 – 18 months for situations of financial abuse, harm and neglect. This remains a key aspect of our work. We continue to collect data to provide the evidence base needed to better inform Government of the service gap for this vulnerable population.

We are frustrated by the little amount we can do in Auckland, Taranaki with some funding from the IHC Foundation for which we are very grateful But in other parts of the country there is almost nothing we can do when we hear of safeguarding issues other than let government officials know and advocate where we can for the person using the Rangatira fund. We are very grateful for the ongoing support for this fund that enable short term advocacy across the country and in many varied circumstances.

This year we again sourced a further actuarial report which shows that while we are in a better position than three years ago we do still have some fine tuning to do to ensure sustainability for current members and we are working through some changes in service delivery with members and the Advocates. The biggest area we are having to address is our transport costs, so we are currently trying to address these to ensure more sustainability in the longer term.

We have explored and are continuing to explore different ways for payment to be made by families to make to a bit easier than the one-off payments. Any other ideas about how we could do this can be considered if we are made aware of any. Using a discretionary trust to make annual payment for advocacy hours delivered each year is now an option. The balance (if there is one), after the person has died can then be passed on to a nominated residual beneficiary, or donated to other family members or the Trust depending on what the parents decide when they set it up.

We say Goodbye to Don Bagnall who has been with the board since 2008, well before I started, and he has made a significant family perspective contribution. So thank you Don. And Ross Steele also stood down earlier this year. This year also saw the establishment of a finance committee to oversee our investments and budgets.

We have had a new board member in Wendy Becker who has a wide breadth of knowledge of the sector and I look forward to her addition to the board discussions and decisions.

We would like a board member with an investment background to add to the skill set. So if you know of anyone with that skill set and a willingness to join the board let us know.

Thanks again to the great work of Erika who manages to keep calm and who continues to progress the organisation in a very professional manner regardless of the continual changes and developments that happens around us like the Covid, dealing with the different ministry's and their apparent lack of commitment to advocacy and safeguarding in a practical sense. And changes that happen internally, like losing the 2nd Director, staff changes etc. The board genuinely appreciates the work you do.

The boards thanks also go to Gail, Johanna and all the Regional Advocates who deliver and support the services. The board understands the huge variety of issues you face on a regular basis and appreciates your commitment. Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Barney Cooper', written in a cursive style.

Barney Cooper
Board Chair
The Personal Advocacy and Safeguarding Adults Trust